



California Department of Veterans Affairs

NEWS FOR VETERANS

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GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENTS TO THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Major General Roger Brautigan, 58, of Stockton, has been appointed undersecretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs. He is a 33-year veteran of the U.S. Army who served in a number of command and staff positions in the United States, Vietnam and Germany. Most recently he served as deputy commanding general and chief of staff, I Corps and Fort Lewis in Fort Lewis, WA. This position does not require Senate confirmation. Brautigan is a Democrat.

Dr. Vernon Chong, 70, of Lincoln, has been appointed to the California Veterans Board. He most recently served as special assistant to the network director at the Department of Veterans Affairs. Dr. Chong is a 31-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force, achieving the rank of major general before his retirement in 1994. This position requires Senate confirmation. Dr. Chong is a Republican.

William Parente, 62, of Santa Monica, has been appointed deputy secretary of Veterans' Homes for the Department of Veterans' Affairs. He has over 34 years of experience in healthcare administration, including serving as president of St. Vincent Medical Center in Los Angeles from 1998 to 2003. Parente served in the U.S. Naval Reserve, achieving the rank of lieutenant (jg) before his retirement. This position does not require Senate confirmation. Parente is a Democrat.

THE AMERICAN LEGION

Congratulations to The American Legion, Department of California, on the occasion of their 86th Annual State Convention in Redding. The cordial relationship between The American Legion and CDVA goes back many years. Their commitment to veterans living in the three Veterans Homes of California has shone through countless times. Among The American Legion's many demonstrations of support for our veterans, we find:

1. Volunteers from The American Legion have been active at all three veterans homes for many years. First, at the veteran's home in Yountville and then at the homes in Barstow and Chula Vista. American Legion members hold an unbroken record of volunteer hours at the Chula Vista Veterans Home.

2. Volunteers from The American Legion have been active at all three veterans homes for many years. First, at the veteran's home in Yountville and then at the homes in Barstow and Chula Vista. American Legion members hold an unbroken record of volunteer hours at the Chula Vista Veterans Home.
3. The American Legion has developed a strong relationship with the Veterans Home of California in Yountville. This relationship has produced The American Legion Baseball tournament, an RV park, an annual picnic, and donations to the Home throughout the entire year.
4. The American Legion has come to the rescue by providing funds to purchase medical equipment. Medical equipment purchased with American Legion donations include defibrillators and an oxygen chamber; items that have made a difference in the medical care given our members.
5. Donations from The American Legion allowed the Chula Vista Veterans Home to purchase a Pontoon boat. They also provided funds for the construction of the home's Wood and Hobby shops.
6. Veterans living in the homes have also benefited greatly from electric golf carts purchased by The American Legion.
7. They continue to be a reliable source of dollars to fund the Domiciliary Activity Department.
8. They opened the Charles Turner Chapter #867 of The American Legion on campus in the Chula Vista Veterans Home.

The California Department of Veterans Affairs and the Veterans Homes of California hope to build on our strong relationship with The American Legion for many years to come as we both serve veterans in the 21st century.

We will be featuring other veterans organizations' contributions to the CDVA mission in future issues of News For Veterans.

Individuals or organizations wishing to subscribe or unsubscribe to this service may contact us via email at newsforveterans@cdva.ca.gov or by telephone at **1-800-952-5626** or **916-653-2192**. For more news and information of interest to veterans, visit our website at <http://www.cdva.ca.gov/>.